

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 14-16 are pending.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwabuchi, Japanese Patent Publication No. 10-044524. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites obtaining a second image data by means of developing the first image data, obtaining a third image data by means of compressing the second image data, comparing a volume of the first image data and a volume of the third image data, and storing the image data of the smaller of said two volumes while discarding the image data of the larger of said two volumes. Applicant wishes to point out that applicant's previous response mischaracterized the claimed invention and such mischaracterization should not be construed as an attempt to limit the claims in any way or disclaim any subject matter beyond the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claims.

Iwabuchi differs from the claimed invention because Iwabuchi stores both the document data for the entire document as well as the compressed bitmap data for the compressed pages and does not discard any of this data when printing the second and subsequent copies. Specifically, Iwabuchi teaches a system which judges whether or not compressed bitmap data for each page is stored. Iwabuchi teaches special storage control that is applied to judge whether or not the compressed bitmap data is stored. However, the special storage control is not applied to the original document data, and the document data for the entire document (all of the pages) is retained regardless of whether corresponding compressed bitmap data is also stored. Thus, the document data for the entire document and the compressed bitmap data for certain pages exist when printing from the second copy on.

In contrast, according to the claimed invention, either the printer language image data or the compressed bitmap data is left in a storage device from the point of view of the entire job or processing unit (by page), and the image data in the both formats do not overlap. In other words, both formats for the same page will not remain stored, only one format per page will be stored and used for subsequent copies. Thus, Iwabuchi fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 1.

Claim 3 recites substantially the same features recited in claim 1 and is allowable for the same reasons. The remaining claims are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwabuchi in view of Applicant's Background Prior Art. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 7 depends from claim 3 and is allowable at least due to its dependency and Iwabuchi's failure to teach the features of claim 3 and further in view of the failure of the background prior art to overcome the deficiencies of Iwabuchi. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 325772014000.

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